Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

in a descriptive manner," cross Novaya Zemlya in the latitude of the Strait accompanied by a Samoyed with a sledge and a team of dogs, then make for a point, northeast of Goose Land, the peninsula which stretches north from Kostin Strait, by a different route from that followed by Chèrnyshev (1895). Finally, he was to return to Belusha Couba, crossing Goose Land from north to south. Failure to find dogs enough and a Samoyed willing to accompany him at Belusha Couba resulted in a modification of his plans. He carried out a brief reconnaissance of the Strait in a whaleboat, made a dash on foot and alone across the main island, and returned to Belusha Couba, where he eventually managed to persuade one of the Samoyeds to build for him a light sledge, provide a team of dogs, and accompany him across Goose Land on foot, using the sledge for the conveyance of a tent, surveying apparatus, and provisions.

The principal results of M. Bénard's expedition were to establish the fact that Goose Land is a low-lying plain, innocent of the mountains which have hitherto figured on the map "in fantastic fashion," to add three fiords to the coast line of Kostin Strait, and to ascertain the direction—north and south—of the chains of rugged hills which flank Goose Land on the east, parallel with the chain of the central divide. There is an interesting account and explanation of the nature and the disintegrating effect on the surface of the southern island of the peculiar *bouffettes*, a sort of pustule, as it were, of mud which crop up everywhere among the fractured schists of which the land is principally composed.

The corrections of the existing maps are made almost entirely "in a descriptive manner." There is one small sketch map in the book. It contains no indications of the relief. Few of the places named in the text are marked on the map. A short chapter only, in spite of the title of the book, is devoted to observations on the life and manners of the Samoyeds of the regions visited.

With the limitations indicated, M. Bénard's volume is a welcome contribution to the rather scanty geographical literature of the region. There is a useful discussion of the routes through the Barents and Kara Seas, as conditioned by the prevailing winds, the direction of the currents, and the ice.

H. U. HALL

A REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY OF FRANCE

EMMANUEL DE MARTONNE. **Les régions géographiques de la France.** 190 pp.; maps, diagrs., bibliogr. (Bibliothèque de Culture générale.) Ernest Flammarion, Paris, 1921. 4 frs. 50. 7½ x 4½ inches.

France has been the subject of more valuable regional studies than any other country, thanks to the influence of the late Paul Vidal de la Blache, who himself composed the model in his "Tableau." Some of his pupils, as is well known, have applied his method in their studies of a number of the separate regions of France, all of which form admirable treatises. And now one of them, Professor de Martonne, has presented the geography of almost the whole country in an original form and, in doing so, has achieved remarkable success. The publication of this work is of special interest to Americans because it has developed from a series of lectures delivered by M. de Martonne first at Columbia University and later at the Sorbonne, where they were specially designed for foreign students. It is significant that this book, which is real geography from start to finish, finds a place in a "Library of General Culture," to which indeed it is admirably suited. The author has striven—and one may hope has succeeded—to depict and explain "to any cultivated and curious mind" the varied aspect and resources of the soil of France; and the method he has chosen for thus arousing the interest of the general reader could scarcely be bettered.

The author plunges *in medias res* with a description of Paris—its position, site, growth advantages and disadvantages—in the first chapter and follows with successive chapters on the Paris region and basin, Picardy and the Champagne, Lorraine, the Vosges and Alsace, and so on over the most of France. It may be surmised that the reader will thus gain an appreciation of the meaning of geography and will be prepared to fill out the gaps from other sources. This book alone leads to an intelligent appreciation of the varied landscapes of France and of the intimate and manifold associations of land and people in the different contrasted regions; but it gives the reader no idea of the geography of France as a unit. We are left with the feeling that a chapter is lacking which would pull the regions together and sketch the homeland of the French people in lines as decisive and impressionistic as those which outline so satisfactorily each of the component parts. Such a chapter, it would appear, the author might well have worked in to the advantage of this otherwise excellent book without attempting to make it a complete geography of France with full treatment of distributions, physical and human, which can quite well be sought for in other books and atlases. Illustration is limited to a few block diagrams, and it is essential that a good atlas be before the reader; and where possible the maps of the Service Géographique de l'Armée—either on 1 : 600,000 or 1 : 200,000—should be consulted.

Having noted these omissions we may characterize M. de Martonne's work by stating that we know of no more concise and telling geographical description at once vivid and explanatory which has so successfully encompassed a territory of the area and variety of France within 190 short pages. Not a word is superfluous, and the style is easy and attractive. With his reputation as a physical geographer the author could be counted on to provide lucid accounts of the various land forms and their origin. These are present but not overweighted, and they are deftly worked into landscape description in such a way that man is the central figure. Nowhere is local patriotism stronger than in France; and in no civilized country is man more directly dependent upon the soil. France excels, then, as a field for the study of the relationships between man and his habitat, and we are grateful to Professor de Martonne for presenting a great subject in simple language.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH

S. J. SCHOFIELD. **The Origin of the Rocky Mountain Trench, B. C.** Maps, diagrs. *Proc. and Trans. Royal Soc. of Canada,* Ser. 3, Vol. 14, 1920, Section IV, pp. 61–97.

F. P. SHEPARD. **The Structural Relation of the Purcell Range and the Rocky Mountains of Canada.** Maps, diagrs. *Journ. of Geol.,* Vol. 30, 1922, No. 2, pp. 130–139.

Because the Rocky Mountain trench is the "most remarkable structural feature of the Canadian Cordillera" any addition to our knowledge of it is of wide geographical interest. The trench forms the western boundary of the Rocky Mountains of Canada practically throughout its whole length for a distance of over 800 miles. Its direction is almost constant north 33° west. In it are the headwaters of nine considerable streams. The sides of the trench rise on an average 4,500 feet above the valley floor; the width averages 4 to 6 miles; the floor is flat or slightly rolling; and, finally, glaciation has smoothed and trimmed its interlocking spurs to such an extent as to increase its linear quality and give it its modern trough-like characteristics.

Of particular interest in physiography are the series of cross sections on page 74 of Schofield's paper and the accompanying discussion of evidences of faulting. Schofield, following Daly, considers that the origin of the trench in an almost continuous zone of faulting is now well established. It is his belief that sharp changes in rock character in short distances at a few localities where actual faults have been observed and other pronounced structural features from which faulting is clearly inferred furnish a strong basis for a definite conclusion on this question. The normal faulting in evidence probably took place in Eocene time. It produced not only a depression but also a zone of shearing along which rivers would tend to erode rapidly. The author discusses at some length the effects of erosion in Cretaceous time and the reduction of the highlands to a peneplain. In this fact and in subsequent broad crustal movements, coupled with the structural features of the Rocky Mountain trench, we have an explanation of the drainage relations of today. These relations are traced out in considerable detail; but the history of Pleistocene and recent drainage in British Columbia is not discussed, the reader being referred to Dawson's famous paper read before the Royal Society of Canada in 1889.

Shepard takes issue with Schofield and Daly with respect to the explanation outlined above. From a study of 180 miles of the Rocky Mountain trench between Gateway, Mont., and Golden, B. C., he concludes that it is not a unit in development and structure but that its different parts have had different origins—"partly by normal erosion, partly by erosion along lines of structural weakness, and partly by the escarpment of a fault (*sic*)." The faulting adjudged to be operative was of the thrust rather than of the normal type. It was a zone of weakness at the present locus of the trench in the Purcell Mountain region, caused by the intersection of a large number of fault planes, that hastened the erosive processes.